

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic conference joining method in which a chairman who opens an electronic conference sets an area  
5 on a database and in which guests who join said electronic conference send a request for access to said area to a server from the terminals of the guests', the method comprising:

10 storing setup information for setting said area in a storage section of a chairman's terminal,

creating from the chairman's terminal an invitation message comprising said setup information stored in said storage section,

15 giving an instruction from the chairman's terminal for transmission of said invitation message,

transmitting from the chairman's terminal an invitation signal comprising said setup information to said guests' terminals based on said instruction,

20 receiving at the guests' terminals said invitation signal and obtaining said setup information,

creating at the guests' terminals an access request signal comprising said setup information, and

25 transmitting from the guests' terminals to said server, said access request signal in response to a guests' instruction.

2. The electronic conference joining method according

to claim 1, wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database.

5 3. The electronic conference joining method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the chairman's terminal, an opening response signal from said server, said opening response signal indicating that said area has been set in said 10 database, said opening response signal comprises an ID number for allowing said server to identify said area of said database,

transmitting from the chairman's terminal said invitation signal containing said ID number, and

15 adding said ID number contained in said invitation signal to said access request signal.

4. The electronic conference joining method according to claim 3, wherein said setup information comprises at 20 least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database.

5. An electronic conference joining system in which a chairman who opens an electronic conference sets an area 25 on a database and in which guests who join said electronic conference send a request for access to said area to a server from terminals of the guests',

the system comprises a chairman's terminal comprising a storage that stores setup information for setting said area, an invitation message creator that creates an invitation message comprising said setup information stored in said storage, an instruction device that gives an instruction for transmission of said invitation message created by the invitation message creator, and an invitation signal transmitter that transmits an invitation signal comprising said setup information to said guests' terminals in response to said instruction from the instruction device, and

said guests' terminals comprising a setup information retriever that receives said invitation signal and obtains said setup information, an access request signal source that creates an access request signal comprising said setup information obtained by the setup information retriever, and a request signal transmitter that transmits to said server, said access request signal created at said access request signal source in response to a guests' instruction.

6. The electronic conference joining system according to claim 5, wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database.

7. The electronic conference joining system according

to claim 5, wherein said chairman's terminal further comprises a receiver that receives an opening response signal from said server, said opening response signal indicating that said area has been set in said database,

5           said opening response signal comprising an ID number for allowing said server to identify said area of said database,

              wherein said invitation signal transmitter transmits said invitation signal comprising said ID number,

10          and

              wherein said access request signal source adds said ID number contained in said invitation signal to said access request signal.

15          8.       The electronic conference joining system according to claim 7, wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database.

20          9.       A recording medium having programs recorded thereon, said programs controlling terminals in an electronic conference joining system in which a chairman who opens an electronic conference sets an area on a database and in which guests who join said electronic conference send 25 a request for access to said area to a server from terminals of the guests',

              said recording medium being readable by a computer

and having, to control said chairman's terminal, a program recorded thereon for causing said computer to store setup information for setting said area in a storage section, create an invitation message comprising said setup

5 information stored in said storage section, give an instruction for transmission of said invitation message, and transmit an invitation signal containing said setup information to said guests' terminals in response to said instruction,

10       said recording medium having, to control said guests' terminals, a program recorded thereon for causing said computer to receive said invitation signal and obtaining said setup information, create an access request signal comprising said setup information, and transmit to said 15 server, said access request signal in response to a guests' instruction.

10.      A program for controlling terminals in an electronic conference joining system in which a chairman who opens 20 an electronic conference sets an area on a database and in which guests who join said electronic conference send a request for access to said area to a server from terminals of the guests'.

      said program causing, to control said chairman's 25 terminal, a computer to store setup information for setting said area, in a storage section, create an invitation message comprising said setup information stored in said

storage section, give an instruction for transmission of said invitation message, and transmit an invitation signal comprising said setup information to said guests' terminals in response to said instruction,

5           said program causing, to control said guests' terminals, said computer to receive said invitation signal and obtain said setup information, create an access request signal comprising said setup information, and transmit to said server, said access request signal in response to said  
10          guests' instruction.